

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A tablet storage and take-out apparatus ~~in which a vial filled with tablets is waiting at a waiting space for being taken out~~, comprising:

a storage part including at least one storage chamber in which a vial filled with tablets is held prior to being taken out, the storage chamber defining a waiting space having an inserting opening and a taking-out opening;

plural pairs of holding members for holding a barrel of the vial, each of the plural pairs of holding members being provided at the waiting space so that the holding members of each pair of holding members areas to be opposed to each other;

the plural pairs of holding members being disposed between the inserting opening and the taking-out opening of the waiting space so as to hold the vial inserted into the inserting opening and removed from the taking-out opening; and

stock sensors for detecting whether the vial is held by the plural pairs of holding members or not, the stock sensorsensors being provided so as to correspond to the plural pairs of holding members, respectively.

2. (Currently Amended) The tablet storage and take-out apparatus as in claim1, wherein:

the plural pairs of holding members are provided with concave portions that are opposed to each other:other;

the plural pairs of holding members are supported so as to pivot around two shafts that are spaced away from each other by a distance larger than a diameterthe diameter of the vial so that the concave portions can come close to and move away from each other;

\_\_\_\_ the plural pairs of holding members are urged so that the concave portions can come close to each other; and

\_\_\_\_ the concave portions can pinch and hold ~~a barrel~~~~the barrel~~ of the vial so that ~~a center~~~~the center~~ of the vial is positioned between the concave portions.

3. (Currently Amended) The tablet storage and take-out apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the stock sensors are sensors for detecting that the holding members of each of the plural pairs of holding members are situated at a position close to or away from each other depending on a relative position of the holding members.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The tablet storage and take-out apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the ~~plural pairs of holding members~~ of the plural pairs of holding members positioned at the take-out side have a high priority;

\_\_\_\_ if none of the plural pairs of holding members ~~have hold~~have held the vial, the pair of holding members having higher priority holds the vial newly filled with tablets; and

\_\_\_\_ if any one of the plural pairs of holding members ~~have hold~~have held the vial, the pair of holding members having a priority that is next lower than the pair of holding members having a priority that is lowest among the pairs of holding members holding the vial holds the subsequent vial.

6. (Currently Amended) The tablet storage and take-out apparatus as in claim 1, wherein:

the storage part comprises a plurality of storage chambers~~waiting space has a plural~~  
space;

the plural pairs of holding members located in the same waiting space of the plurality of  
waiting spaces can hold a plurality of the plural vials filled with tabletstables for onesame patient;  
and

the plural pairs of holding members in a different one of the plurality of waiting spaces  
can holdthe different space hold the vial filled a vial filled with tabletstables for a different  
patient.

7. (Currently Amended) The tablet storage and take-out apparatus as in claim 2, wherein the  
stock sensors are sensors for detecting that the holding members of each of the plural pairs of  
holding members are situated at a position close to or away from each other depending on a  
relative position of the holding members.

8-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) The tablet storage and take-out apparatus as in claim 2, wherein:

the holding members of the plural pairs of holding members positioned at the take-out  
side have a high priority;

if none of the plural pairs of holding members have heldhave held the vial, the pair of  
holding members having a higher priority holds the vial newly filled with tablets; and

if any one of the plural pairs of holding members have heldhave held the vial, the pair of  
holding members having a priority that is next lower than the pair of holding members having a

priority that is lowest among the pairs of holding members holding the vial holds the subsequent vial.

11. (Currently Amended) The tablet storage and take-out apparatus as in claim 3, wherein:  
\_\_\_\_ the holding member of the plural pairs of holding members positioned at the take-out side have a high priority;

\_\_\_\_ if none of the plural pairs of holding members have held~~have held~~ the vial, the pair of holding members having a higher priority holds the vial newly filled with tablets; and

\_\_\_\_ if any one of the plural pairs of holding members have held~~have held~~ the vial, the pair of holding members having a priority that is next lower than the pair of holding members having a priority that is lowest among the pairs of holding members holding the vial holds the subsequent vial.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The tablet storage and take-out apparatus as in claim 2, wherein:  
\_\_\_\_ the storage part includes a plurality of storage chambers~~waiting space has a plural space~~;  
\_\_\_\_ the plural pairs of holding members located in the same waiting space of the plurality of waiting spaces can hold a plurality of the plural vials filled with tablet~~tables~~ for one~~same~~ patient;  
and

\_\_\_\_ the plural pairs of holding members in a different one of the plurality of waiting spaces can hold~~the different space hold a vial~~ the vial filled with tablet~~tables~~ for a different patient.

14. (Currently Amended) The tablet storage and take-out apparatus as in claim 3, wherein:  
\_\_\_\_ the storage part includes a plurality of storage chambers~~waiting space has a plural space~~;  
\_\_\_\_ the plural pairs of holding members located in the same waiting space of the plurality of  
waiting spaces can hold a plurality of~~the plural~~ vials filled with tablet~~tables~~ for one~~same~~ patient;  
and

\_\_\_\_ the plural pairs of holding members in a different one of the plurality of waiting spaces  
can~~the different space hold a vial~~the vial filled with tablet~~tables~~ for a different patient.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The tablet storage and take-out apparatus as in claim 5, wherein:  
\_\_\_\_ the storage part includes a plurality of storage chambers~~waiting space has a plural space~~;  
\_\_\_\_ the plural pairs of holding members located in the same waiting space of the plurality of  
waiting spaces can hold a plurality of~~the plural~~ vials filled with tablet~~tables~~ for one~~same~~ patient;  
and

\_\_\_\_ the plural pairs of holding members in a different one of the plurality of waiting spaces  
can hold~~the different space hold a vial~~the vial filled with tablet~~tables~~ for a different patient.